

Mandeville Primary School

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

■ **We can't quite believe that another academic year is coming to a close. This year has allowed the school to get back to some level of normality, and it has been absolutely wonderful to see how the children have responded.**

We were very pleased that the children were able to enrich their learning through experiences such as school trips and visits from external partners, as well as amazing opportunities to show us what they've learned in events such as the music concert and sports day.

The school team have worked tirelessly this year to ensure the children were given the best possible opportunity to catch up on any missed learning, and the progress we have seen the children make is a testament to the school team's, the parents' and the children's efforts.

The members of the governing board have worked alongside the school to ensure we continue to challenge and support in every area of school life. Governors have been involved with visits, the expansion programme, the Eco Committee, the sustainable travel team, mental health and well-being initiatives as well as key areas such as curriculum, finance and safeguarding.

As a team, we have also been able to attend events and see the amazing achievements of our wonderful children. This Newsletter gives you a bit of information on some of the things the governing board has been involved with this term.

We are sad to say goodbye to the children and parents who may be leaving the school at the end of this year, but we know that your



children will continue to do amazing things as they progress to the next stage of their education.

For the children and parents who are continuing their journey with Mandeville School, we hope you have a great summer holiday and look forward to see you all back in September.

Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors

School Expansion

Sarah Lilly

Chair of the School Expansion Team and Link Governor for Health and Safety.

■ The expansion plans for the school are entering a new phase, as we wait for the final formalities to be completed before planning permission is granted.

It is hoped that construction work can begin over the upcoming summer holidays, and the School Expansion Team will be working closely with the chosen contractors from July onwards to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils, staff and parents, as well as our community.

As the building work commences, we will be providing updates more frequently via the school Newsletter and website, so that we can all be informed about the ongoing changes to the school site, and make allowances for any changes of routine that will need to be put in place at times.

This is an exciting time for the school, but we are well aware that there will be challenges too, as this is a complex project with many people involved. We will keep you updated regularly as we experience this time of school growth together.

Our Annual Budget

■ One of the main responsibilities of the Governing Board is to ensure the sound financial management of the school. A key part of this is responsibility for approving the school's annual budget, and this short article aims to give a flavour of the role Governors play in the budget-setting process.

The school's budget year runs in line with the tax year, which means the budget is a big focus in the Spring term. Early in the term the Resources Committee - the Committee of the Governing Board with responsibility for financial matters - begins discussing the priorities for the following year's budget

with the Headteacher. As you can imagine, school budgets are incredibly tight, so this can involve some tricky trade-offs. This challenge was exacerbated this year by the increased costs we are all familiar with. For example, the school's budget for gas and electricity this year is double that of last year - with no corresponding increase in the funding available to the school.

The needs of pupils are at the front of our minds when considering the budget, with our aim always to optimise the educational benefit of our spending decisions. Once the Resources Committee is happy with the proposed budget, it is then discussed

and approved by the full Governing Board, before being submitted to Herts County Council. During the year the school and Governors then monitor the school's income and expenditure relative to the set budget on a monthly basis, making sure we are happy with any deviations and taking action as needed to ensure we stay on track. The process then begins again for the following year!

Richard Whisker

Vice Chair of the Governing Body, Chair of the Resources Committee, Curriculum Subject Link Governor for Mathematics and a member of the School Travel Team.

Meet the Governor

Nathan Parsad

Member of the Resources Committee and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for Geography. Member of the School Travel Team and the Eco-Committee



■ I joined the governing body in July last year and we are now reaching the

end of my first academic year with involvement in the school.

For me, it has been a remarkable first year, seeing how everyone in our school community has dealt with so many challenges, tackled them head on and shown great flexibility and strength to provide a fantastic education for our children.

I have been lucky enough

to be involved in the wonderful Eco-Committee, where it has been my privilege to see the enthusiasm of pupils to be more sustainable and tackle climate change as well as observe and meet pupils in my role as link governor for Geography.

I moved to Sawbridgeworth in 2020 having spent several years living in London and was keen to get involved with the

community; being a school Governor here at Mandeville has been a great start.

In addition to my role as a School Governor I am also a Town Councillor on Sawbridgeworth Town Council where I aim to strengthen our community.

I look forward to next year and wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Adviser

■ Throughout the year, we are visited by a 'Hertfordshire Improvement Partner' (HIP) from 'Herts for Learning', who supports us with our ongoing self-evaluation and school development work.

This term, we have had two visits. The first was on the 17th May and explored mathematics. A second visit took place on 14th June, focussing on PSHE and art and design.

The visits followed the deep dive methodology published by Ofsted in the

'Inspecting The Curriculum' document and included the following elements:

- Meeting the subject leaders to review the curriculum intent
- Visiting classes to observe lessons and the implementation of the curriculum
- Meeting with pupils to discuss learning and explore curriculum impact

Our HIP made the following observations in his reports:

• "The pupils at Mandeville school are highly motivated and their attitudes to maths are very positive enabling children to achieve well. The school prioritises maths with comprehensive and well-structured plans that support progression. Leaders are instrumental in driving forward positive change in the school."

"The pupils feel safe at Mandeville school. They are highly motivated and enjoy their learning. The school has made some significant changes to their art and PSHE curriculum recently

and staff have very good subject knowledge about their areas of responsibility. Monitoring is systematic and effective in the subjects explored and there is clear evidence of impact from this."

Valuable discussions took place between subject leaders relating to the curriculum, which will inform our ongoing quality provision for the new academic year.

Miss Hales
Headteacher

Bastille Day

On 14th July the school celebrated Bastille Day led by Mrs Ball our Foreign Language Lead. Bastille Day - known in France as La Fête Nationale (French National Day) or Le Quatorze Juillet (July 14th) - is an important public holiday which commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison, an event that triggered the French revolution in 1789.

A number of events took place throughout the day across the year groups giving students the opportunity to celebrate the French language and culture and complement their language learning.

Reception engaged in a colouring in activity matching colours with the French version of the word, had an

introduction to the French flag and took part in cake decorating.

Year 1 made French flag bunting, coloured in greeting signs saying 'Bonjour' and 'Au revoir' and learned new French vocabulary for ordering at the after-school cafe.

Year 2 made croissants and pain au chocolate. They made their own French flags, did the class register, learned vocabulary for the parts of the body and carried out a bingo activity and a colour hunt all in French!

In mixed groups Years 3 and 4 participated in a fact finding activity learning about the origins of Bastille Day and had a quiz to test their learning

from the activity.

They took part in a drama activity re-enacting parts of the Bastille Day events. These activities were supported by year 12 students and the Head of Languages from Leventhorpe.

In the morning Year 5 had the opportunity to increase their vocabulary learning different foods and spent time focusing on their masculine and feminine grammar structures.

Year 6 spent the day at Leventhorpe for their transition but we hear they had a great day preparing for their next chapter!

At the end of the school day students held a French themed

cafe for parents and carers serving tea and coffee, juices, brioche and pain au chocolate through which we raised an amazing £225.96!

Thanks to Mrs Ball for leading this French celebration and giving the students a memorable learning experience.

Kerrie Reddall
Member of Resources Committee, Curriculum Subject Link Governor for Modern Foreign Language and member of the Headteacher's Performance Appraisal Team